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CONSIDERATION OF THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE PREPARATORY WORK AND THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE REGIONAL MEETINGS

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 46/124 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly declared itself convinced of the significant role that institutions at the national level can play in protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and freedoms.

2. The Assembly further recalled the recommendations contained in its resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30 of 5 March 1991 inviting the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights to examine ways and means by which the World Conference could encourage the establishment or strengthening of national institutions. It reaffirmed the importance of the development, in accordance with national legislation, of effective institutions for the promotion of human rights and of maintaining their independence and integrity, and in this connection it encouraged Member States to establish or, where they already existed, to strengthen national institutions and incorporate those elements in national development plans.

3. The General Assembly further noted the progress made in that area in the past few years and the increased number and effectiveness of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in all parts of the world.

4. It should be recalled that, in order to meet the wishes of the General Assembly, the Preparatory Committee, at its second session and pursuant to rule 64 of the rules of procedure of the World Conference, approved the participation of national institutions in the deliberations of the Conference as observers.

5. With a view to contributing to analysis of the ways and means by which the Conference could encourage the establishment or strengthening of national institutions, the Secretariat has prepared this series of documents on the basis of the contributions provided by the national institutions of Australia, Mexico and Tunisia.